

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

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Claims 1-24 (cancelled).

25. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising an antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture, and an antimicrobial metallic material substantially non-leachably bound to ~~wherein the antimicrobial coating comprises a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix having dispersed therein or attached thereto an antimicrobial metallic material~~ such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

26. (Once amended) The article of claim 25 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix comprises benzalkonium groups.

27. (Previously added) The article of claim 25 wherein the antimicrobial metallic material is selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal salt, a metal complex, a metal alloy, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously added) The article of claim 27 wherein the metallic material comprises silver.

29. (Previously added) The article of claim 27 wherein the mixture comprises silver and copper.

30. (Previously added) the article of claim 27 wherein the metal salt is silver iodide.

31. (Previously added) The article of claim 31 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent.

32. (Previously added) The article of claim 31, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of isocyanates, carboxylic acids, acid chlorides, acid anhydrides, succinimidyl ether aldehydes, ketones, alkyl methanesulfonates, alkyl trifluoromethanesulfonates, alkyl para-toluenemethanesulfonates, alkyl halides, and epoxides.

33. (Previously added) The article of claim 31 wherein the crosslinking agent is N,N-methylene-bis-diglycidylaniline.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously added) The article of claim 25 wherein the article is a medical device, a personal care product, or a consumer product.

36. (Previously added) The article of claim 25 wherein the article is a medical device selected from the group consisting of surgical gloves, surgical instruments, dental care instruments, dental consoles, instrument trays, catheters, urological devices, blood collection and transferring devices, devices from for implanting in a patient, urine collection devices, ophthalmic devices, intraocular lenses, tracheotomy devices, topical disinfectants and wound dressings.

37. (Provisionally withdrawn) The article of claim 35 wherein the personal care product is selected from the group consisting of hair care items, toothbrushes, dental floss, dental implements, contact lenses, contact lens storage cases, baby care items, child care items, bathroom implements, bed linens, towels and washcloths.

38. (Provisionally withdrawn) The article of claim 35, wherein the consumer product is selected from the group consisting of kitchen implements, trash containers, disposable trash bags and cutting boards.

Claims 39-49. (Cancelled)

50. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the antimicrobial coating is immobilized on the surface by covalent bonding, ionic interaction, coulombic interaction, hydrogen bonding, or cross-linking.

51. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the antimicrobial coating is immobilized on the surface via a functional group of the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer.

52. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 52, wherein the functional group selected from the group consisting of a thiol group, a hydroxy group, an amine group, a halogen, an epoxy group, an alkyl group, and an alkoxy group.

53. (New) An article of manufacture comprising an antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized

on a surface of the article of manufacture by covalent bonding, ionic interaction, coulombic interaction, hydrogen bonding, or cross-linking, and

an antimicrobial metallic material substantially non-leachably bound or attached to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

54. (New) An article of manufacture comprising an antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture, the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix being functionalized to enable immobilization on the surface, and

an antimicrobial metallic material substantially non-leachably bound to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

55. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 54, wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer is functionalized with a thiol group, a hydroxy group, an amine group, a halogen, an epoxy group, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, and mixtures thereof.